NEWS

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Performing Arts Phenomenon from Bali Performs at the Cleveland Museum of Art on April 22

"Brilliant…stunning…completely entertaining." — Los Angeles Times

CLEVELAND (March 24, 2005) — Çudamani (pronounced SOOD-a-mani) a 25-member ensemble of dancers and musicians from Bali, will perform at the Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) **Gartner Auditorium on Friday, April 22, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.** This will be the final performance of the Museum's 2004–2005 **VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts**.

Admission for the performance is $40 and $35; $35 and $30 for CMA members. Tickets are available by calling 216-421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Considered a national treasure in their native Bali, Çudamani captures the magic of Bali with its dazzling dancers, glorious costumes and shimmering *gamelan* (Indonesian orchestra made up especially of percussion instruments) orchestra. From the village of Pengsekan in Ubud, Bali, this 25-member ensemble re-enacts mythological tales of gods, heroes and spirits.

The dancers of Çudamani revive the classic dance techniques of *Legong*, unique pieces in the *Kebyar* genre with new and expressive choreography. The ensemble musician's use a rare tuning system, which contains extra notes, allowing the group to piece together distinct gamelan ensembles such as *Angklung*, *Semar Pegulingan* and *Gong Kebyar*. As a result, this unique blend of dynamic dancing and expressive musical accompaniment gives Çudamani a distinctive and diverse repertoire.

Ensemble members range in age from 18 to 35, many having graduated from STSI, the degree-granting academy of music and dance in Denpasar, Bali. The majority of the ensemble members are dedicated to teaching more than 100 youth ranging in age from five to 18 in an after-school and weekend program. These children were selected to represent Bali in the first National Children's Performing Arts Festival in Jakarta in July 2002.

Çudamani shares a philosophy of maintaining artistic vitality through connecting their performances with religious and social practices of their village. The formation of Çudamani began in the 1970s, when the children of Pengosekan gathered after school to play music in the village *balai* (pavilion). These children quickly became the objects of pride and recognition within their village. The combination of creative instrumentals and traditional dance arrangements increased tourism in the region and created financial benefits for the community.

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Activists in their community, ensemble members address the philosophical, practical and problematic issues facing contemporary Balinese artists. Decisions are reached through the ensemble's democratic process thus ensuring thorough discussions and group consensus. This type of decision making is unique to gamelan groups in Bali. The ensemble places their artistic standards in service of the temple and the community before financial or individual gain.

In addition, the members of Çudamani work to achieve a balance of being active, creative artists while also preserving ancient and rare forms of Balinese music and dance. The group invites older master artists to Pengosekan to study classic repertoire that is seldom performed.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support for VIVA! is provided by Northern Ohio Live and WKSU 89.7 FM.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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